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12th

Borough of Dartford.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1936

T. FARTHING,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

Annual Report for 1936 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,

30th April, 1937.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1936.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

I should again like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin).—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.

*DR. MARIE L. P. CRAWFORD, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A.—Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, also late Assistant Medical Officer, Alexandra Hospital, Swanley.

*W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I.—Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.

T. PYKE, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector).

*MISS A. A. BRIMBLE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.

*MISS E. NEALE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., C.M.B.

MISS E. SORRELL.—Clerk to Department.

* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1936) ...	33,040
Population (Census, 1931)	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936) according to Rate Books	8,301
Rateable Value	£260,178
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,010

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,234 statute acres.

The district is chiefly an industrial one. The residential area at the west end of the town, in the neighbourhood of The Heath, however, continues to develop, and there is a growing number of residents whose business is outside the Borough.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District :—

London County Council Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.
 London County Mental Hospital.
 Kent County Council, The County Hospital.
 St. Vincent's Industrial School.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are :—

Engineering.	Tanning.
Paper Making.	Silk Printing.
Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.	Flour Milling.

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

Unemployment in Dartford is less than in the previous year. Separate figures for the Borough are not available. The area served by the Dartford Employment Exchange comprises Dartford Borough, Crayford Urban District and Dartford Rural District. I am informed by the manager that the number of persons registered as unemployed during the year 1936 varied as follows :—

Number registered as unemployed.		Percentage of insured persons in area.	
	—		—
January	... 995		5.0
June	... 548		2.8
December	... 793		3.0

OPEN SPACES.

The District is provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include :—

Dartford Heath	340 acres.
Central Park	29 acres.
Hesketh Park	10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all these open spaces.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1936.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	211	220	431
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
						219	226	445

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	13.46
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	14.8

Still Births.—Number of still births during the year...	...	...	...	14
Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	3.05

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	169	148	317
	Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.59
	Death Rate for England and Wales for the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.1
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-								
	From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	None

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Infantile Mortality.	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	12	8	20
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
						16	10	26

Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	...	58.41
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1936 ...	...	59

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	5	...	1	...	6	9	4	5	2	26
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(not tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	6
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	6
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	4	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Totals	...	5	...	1	...	6	9	4	5	2	26

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1935-1936.

Causes of Death.	1935.		1936.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...
2. Measles. ... ..	...	...	...	...
3. Scarlet Fever	1	1	...	...
4. Whooping Cough. ... ..	...	1	1	1
5. Diphtheria.	1	...	...	...
6. Influenza. ... ..	...	...	3	...
7. Encephalitis lethargica. ... ..	...	...	...	1
8. Cerebro-spinal fever. ... ..	...	...	...	...
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	9	7	5	8
10. Other tuberculous diseases. ... ..	...	2	2	1
11. Syphilis.	1	...	...	1
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.	...	...	...	...
13. Cancer, malignant disease.	30	18	22	23
14. Diabetes.	2	4	2	4
15. Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	6	5	5	5
16. Heart disease.	33	35	39	42
17. Aneurism. ... ..	...	...	2	...
18. Other circulatory diseases.	8	8	11	5
19. Bronchitis.	4	8	6	13
20. Pneumonia (all forms).	8	4	13	5
21. Other respiratory diseases. ... ..	...	1	3	1
22. Peptic ulcer.	4	...	3	...
23. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).	3	1	5	1
24. Appendicitis.	1	1	2	2
25. Cirrhosis of liver.	1	...	...	...
26. Other diseases of liver, etc. ... ..	...	2	...	...
27. Other digestive diseases.	6	3	7	2
28. Acute and chronic nephritis.	4	1	3	8
29. Puerperal sepsis. ... ..	...	1	...	2
30. Other puerperal causes. ... ..	...	...	...	...
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	4	4	3	6
32. Senility.	1	1	1	1
33. Suicide.	3	2	5	1
34. Other violence.	7	5	9	5
35. Other defined diseases.	10	11	17	10
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	1	...	...
Totals	147	127	169	148

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1932—1936.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure).	29,260.	30,210	31,440	31,870	33,040
Births	458	428	436	473	445
Birth Rate	15.65	14.16	13.86	14.84	13.46
Still-births	7	12	14	20	14
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	15.3	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8
Deaths	283	283	288	274	317
Death Rate	9.6	9.36	9.16	8.6	9.59
Death Rate (England & Wales)	11.8	12.3	11.8	11.7	12.1
Deaths of infants under 1 year	23	18	31	20	26
Infantile Death Rate	50.2	42.05	71.1	42.07	58.41
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales).	65	64	59	57	59

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Corporation make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Child Welfare Clinic.

(B) MIDWIVES.

There are six midwives practising in the Borough. The controlling authority for midwives is the Kent County Council.

(C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Market Street. Maintained by the Council.

School Clinic, King Edward Avenue	} Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street ...	...
Venereal Clinic, The County Hospital ...	...

(D) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

1. The County Hospital, West Hill, for General Purposes, under the management of Kent County Council (Public Assistance Committee), available for persons resident in the area under the control of the Public Assistance Committee and by private patients from the same area. Extensions of this Hospital are being carried out. Ophthalmic, Orthopædic, Neurological, X-Ray Urological and Dental Clinics are held in connection with this Hospital.

2. Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, for General Purposes, supported by Voluntary Contributions under the management of a voluntary committee, available for persons resident in the Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural Districts.

3. Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital, Bow Arrow Lane (for Infectious Diseases) under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee, available for persons resident in Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, Bexley Urban District, Crayford Urban District, and Swanscombe Urban District. The extensions to the Hospital referred to in my last year's report are nearing completion and will provide, in addition to a new administration block, new wards, which will bring the total accommodation for patients up to 133 beds. Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the London County Council Small Pox Hospital, Joyce Green, but this arrangement is under review at the present time.

(E) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(i). INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Dartford Joint Hospital Committee maintain two ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease from their homes to the hospital.

(ii). GENERAL CASES.—The local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to do very useful work. They maintain a motor ambulance which is available for accidents and the removal of sick persons to local or London hospitals.

During the year 1936, the following cases were dealt with by this ambulance :—

First Aid cases (of which 74 were road accidents)	275
Sick removals to local hospitals	292
Sick removals to London hospitals and other places	67

The charges made for the use of the ambulance are as follows :—

To local hospitals 5/-

To London hospitals and other removals outside the District 9d. per mile (both journeys) with special terms for distances over 100 miles.

There is also a scheme whereby subscribers of a minimum of 1/- per year are entitled to the free use of the ambulance for removals to local hospitals, etc. and at 6d. per mile for longer journeys.

First aid duties are also carried out by members of the division at the local Cinemas, Football Grounds, etc., and road service during the summer months.

The Ambulance of the Kent County Council Public Assistance Committee is also available, on payment of the scale of charges fixed by the Council, for the removal of patients within and outside the District.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis :—

Diphtheria swabs	... ..	107
Tuberculosis sputa	... ..	150
Typhoid, including Widal test	... ..	3
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	... ..	1
Samples of Grade "A" (T.T.) Milk	... ..	13
Samples of Milk for T.B.	... ..	6
Water samples from Swimming Bath	... ..	2

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II, III and V.

Adopted 2nd, January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890

Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part II	} Adopted 2nd April, 1909
Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part III	... ..
Sections 60, 62, 65 and 68 in Part IV...	... ..
Whole of Part V	... ..
Whole of Part VI	} Adopted 19th March, 1909.
Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part VII	... ..
Section 90 in Part VIII	... ..
Section 95 in Part X	... ..
	Adopted 4th Jan., 1913

Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II, III, IV and V adopted 2nd December, 1925.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

BYE-LAWS.

The Corporation have Bye-laws relating to the following :—

Common Lodging Houses.
Good Rule and Government.
Houses Let in Lodgings (Housing Act, 1925).
Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).
Nuisances.
Offensive Trades.
Removal of Offensive Matter.
Slaughterhouses.
Tents, Vans and Sheds.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

With the exception of a few isolated houses in the rural portions of the district, the whole of the houses are connected to the Metropolitan Water Board's mains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution have been noticed or dealt with during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is, and has been for many years, main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford.

During the year 4 houses previously cesspool drained have been connected to the public sewers

There are only 79 houses, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. Over 99 % of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The system is a water carriage one. In the more rural portions of the area, where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned :—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	56
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	21
Privies and earth closets	...	...	...	...	...	2

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

SCAVENGING.

A collection of house refuse is made in the district weekly and in the central portion of the district, twice weekly.

Part of the refuse is burnt at the destructor, and part is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site between Princes Road and Heath Lane.

Controlled tipping has been in operation since 1935, and has proved quite satisfactory.

As the present tip is nearly filled, the Corporation have obtained another site for controlled tipping which will make ample provision for the future.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following :—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

Three Urinals at various parts of the Town.

Open air Swimming Baths in Burnham Road.

During the year a filtration plant was installed at the open-air swimming baths at Burnham Road with very satisfactory results. Samples of the water taken during the year showed that the water was being maintained in a very satisfactory state.

A new convenience for both sexes is shortly to be provided on the East Hill, and the provision of conveniences in other parts of the Borough is under consideration.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1935 :—

				1935	1936
Men	..	..	..	8,565	9,344
Boys	..	..	..	407	554
Women		..	..	2,785	2,893
Girls	..	..	..	127	114
TOTAL				11,884	12,905

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are two Central and nine Junior schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water supply and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. The sanitary accommodation at the Church of England schools was improved during the year.

PROPAGANDA.

Lectures were given by the British Social Hygiene Council during February, 1936, to nurses and midwives and to young persons, and were well attended.

This department co-operated in the arrangements for the lecture to nurses and midwives, and the chair was taken by myself. The arrangements for the lectures to young persons were made by the Local Education Committee.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
(ii) By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Houses	607
									Flats	28
										Total ... 653

In addition 4 single houses have been converted into 8 flats.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made.	Houses 296.	Inspections	891
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and the number of inspections made.	Houses 32.	Inspections	117
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses under paragraph 2 (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation			39

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	278
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of Owners	None
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	13
(b) By local authority in default of owners	None
(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	10
(3) Number of dwellings in respect of which " Undertaking by Owners to execute works " were accepted by the Council	None
(4) Number of dwellings rendered fit after " Undertaking by Owners to execute works " had been accepted by the Council	None
(5) Number of dwellings in respect of which undertaking not to use as a dwelling was accepted by the Council	None

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit	None

4. HOUSING ACT, 1935 (Overcrowding).

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	53
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	55
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein Adults	346
Children	86
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases: Adults ...	104
Children	37
(d) One family found to be overcrowded at the time of enumeration was relieved by the provision of a Council house and the house again became overcrowded before the "Appointed Day."	

The enumeration under the Act was completed in April, 1936. Of the 5,997 families enumerated 69, or 1.15%, were found to be overcrowded under the Act. Of these 69 families, 25 were only overcrowded by one half and 20 by one person. leaving 24 more serious cases of overcrowding. Of the 69 cases 25 were in Council houses, and 44 in other houses.

In 126 cases two or more families were found to be living in the same house, but in only 4 instances did this cause overcrowding.

The following numbers of houses have been represented as unfit since the Housing Act, 1930, came into force :—

1930	..	..	11 houses.
1931	..	..	51 houses.
1932	..	..	4 houses.
1933	..	..	18 houses.
1935	..	..	2 houses.

The following table shows the result of such action during the year :—

Premises.	No. of Houses	Date of Representation.	Action taken.	Remarks.
Manor Place 9.	1	2— 8—33	Demolition Order made 4—10—33.	Further action deferred.
Hadlow Place. Lowfield Street 1 to 7.	7	9—11—33	Demolition Order made 12—3—34.	Appeal lodged and heard June, 1934. Order confirmed. Houses void.
Overy Street. 2 to 16.	8	27—12—33	Demolition Order made 12—2—34.	Houses demolished
Overy Street. 24 and 26.	2	27— 3—35	Demolition Order made 8— 7—35.	Houses demolished

In addition to the houses set out in the table, 32 houses have been inspected during the year under the Housing Act, and notices regarding repairs, etc., have been served with regard thereto.

The following table shows the number of new houses built during the past ten years :—

		Built by Council.	Private Enterprise Subsidy.	Non-Subsidy.	Total
1927	...	256	107	32	395
1928	...	56	81	31	168
1929	...	—	125	84	209
1930	...	14	—	266	280
1931	...	76	—	232	308
1932	...	181	—	170	351
1933	...	112	—	408	520
1934	...	—	—	499	499
1935	...	140	—	401	541
1936	...	20	—	635	655
Totals	...	855	313	2758	3926

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The taking of samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Kent County Council, and the County Council being also the Authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts carries out the work under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences have been granted by the Corporation :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—

Bottlers' Licences	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	3

Pasteurised Milk—

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	3

Thirteen samples of Graded milks were taken during the year.

The examination of Graded milks and other bacteriological work in connection with food is carried out by the Kent County Council at the County Bacteriological Laboratory.

No legal action has had to be taken under the Meat Regulations, 1924. One warning with regard to the protection of meat from dust was given during the year. There is one registered slaughterhouse in the district, and the notification of the times of slaughtering has been very satisfactory. 213 inspections have been made during the year.

The amount of unsound food destroyed during the year was 2 tons, 4 cwts., 1 qr., 27 lbs., particulars of which are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified was 20 (exclusive of institutional cases) as compared with 33 in 1935, and is the lowest notified since 1932 and previously since 1924.

The facilities for immunisation, started in 1935, were continued throughout the year, and I am pleased to state that increasing use is being made of them.

Contacts with cases notified, and also children referred to the Department by the school teachers, are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified (exclusive of institutional cases) was 53 as compared with 89 in 1935, and is the lowest notified since 1926.

Of these cases 19 were nursed at home and 34 removed to hospital.

There were 2 return cases during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of Para-Typhoid was notified during the year. The source of infection could not be traced.

MEASLES.

Measles is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, but the cases amongst children of school age are notified to the Department by the Head Teachers of Schools.

There was no particular prevalence of the disease during the year.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases can be admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer was 45, being 14.19 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with :—

1935	...	48 deaths	17.39 per cent. of total deaths.
1934	...	34 "	11.8 " " " "
1933	...	33 "	11.66 " " " "
1932	...	49 "	17.3 " " " "
1931	...	27 "	10.97 " " " "
1930	...	28 "	12.33 " " " "

INFLUENZA.

The incidence of influenza during the year was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious diseases to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfection is also carried out after death from tuberculosis and if requested after death from cancer.

Disinfection of verminous premises is done by spraying with a suitable vermicide. 48 houses were disinfected during the year necessitating 85 sprayings

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	20	...	1	...	1	...	10	3	1	3	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	53	...	...	3	5	1	26	5	...	9	3	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	30	1	...	...	...	...	7	2	1	6	2	6	5
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	53	1	3	5	5	5	23	6	1	4	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..
Erysipelas	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Enteric Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	18	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	8
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—5	....	....	1	1	1	....	1	....
5—10	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
10—15	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
15—20	3	....	....	1	....	1	....	....
20—25	2	1	....	....	....	2	....	....
25—35	10	....	2	....	1	1	1	....
35—45	2	1	....	....	2	....	....	....
45—55	6	....	....	1	1	1	....	....
55—65	2	2	....	1	....	2	....	....
65 and upwards	1	2	....	....	....	1	....	....
Totals	27	6	5	4	5	8	2	1

26 of the 42 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 2 cases notified previous to 1936 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to four of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number on Register at commencement of Year	119	73	25	34	251
Number on Register at end of Year	130	69	27	34	260

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

(a) Children attending at beginning of 1936, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	5	17	20	19	37	2	2	—	102
Thursday	—	—	—	—	30	53	35	19	137
Friday	5	25	19	25	32	—	—	—	106
Totals	10	42	39	44	99	55	37	19	345

(b) New entrants, ages at entry :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	99	20	11	1	16	1	1	—	149
Thursday	2	2	—	2	15	23	11	2	57
Friday	103	13	4	1	11	—	—	—	132
Totals	204	35	15	4	42	24	12	2	333

(c) Children attending at beginning of 1937, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	8	29	19	15	35	2	1	—	109
Thursday	—	—	2	—	23	64	39	21	149
Friday	7	20	17	14	36	1	—	—	95
Totals	15	49	38	29	94	67	40	21	353

Number of mothers attended the Clinics, 692.

Total attendances of mothers, 9,078.

Of the number of infants registered 204 were under the age of three months on registration.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on register during year	...	...	...	...	180
Number of new cases	...	...	...	...	156
Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	53
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	614
Average attendance per clinic	...	...	...	...	11.58

The particulars of the 156 new cases who attended the Clinic during the year 1936 are as follows:—

Normal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Abnormal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cases showing other conditions requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Not pregnant	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

Analysis of abnormal ante-natal cases:—

Contracted pelvis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Malpresentations:— Breech	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Twins	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toxaemias:—							
Pre-eclampsia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature stillbirth	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Persistent vomiting	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Placenta prævia and antepartum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vaginitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Parametritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature rupture of membranes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Septic phlebitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Other conditions requiring treatment (frequently more than one present in same patient):—

Pyorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dental caries	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Severe anæmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Hæmorrhoids	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Urticaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

This Clinic was held each month during the year. 42 new cases received advice and 107 attendances were made. Every care is taken to see that the objects of the Clinic are fulfilled.

MATERNITY HOME.

Arrangements are made for the admission of cases into the British Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, and financial assistance is given according to scale of income.

PUERPERAL FEVER and PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS 1926.

Arrangements have been made under these regulations for:—

- (a) The admission of cases requiring hospital treatment into the North Western Hospital of the London County Council.
- (b) The services of an obstetric consultant when required.
- (c) The Dartford District Nursing Association to undertake home nursing where hospital treatment is not necessary.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia and one case of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year. The case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified from the County Hospital, and the case of Puerperal Fever from the Summerhill Nursing Home.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

TREATMENT OF SQUINT.

Arrangements are in force for the treatment of squint in children under school age by the School Ophthalmic Surgeon. One case was referred for treatment during the year.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

During the year three children received treatment under the Kent County Council scheme for the orthopædic treatment of children under school age

DENTAL TREATMENT TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

One child and one mother were granted assistance in accordance with with the Council's Scheme for dental treatment during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three cases were notified during the year. Two cases were treated at home and one was admitted to Hospital. In no case was there any impairment of vision.

Children requiring treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum can be received into St. Margaret's Hospital by arrangement with the London County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.

No action has had to be taken with regard to cases of Tuberculosis in persons connected with the milk trade.

SECTION 62 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925.

No action has been taken during the year with regard to compulsory removal of cases of Tuberculosis under this section.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Kent County Council is the Authority dealing with this group of diseases. A local Clinic is held by them at The County Hospital.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1936 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows :—

8,233 pints free.
1,001 pints half price.
132 lb. dried milk free.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908, Part 1 and CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932.

The main object of the above is to secure that any child under nine years of age maintained “for reward” shall be notified to the Local Authority in order that supervision of the home conditions and the health of the child can be carried out.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carries out the duties of Infant Protection Officer.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year	...	...	...	178
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year	...	...	...	16
Number of foster children on register at end of year	...	...	...	24

HOME VISITATION.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year ;

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	429
Number of visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	1,559
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	1,509
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	4,792
Total visits	...	...	...	6,351

In addition to these visits the following have been paid :—

Ante-natal visits (to 156 individual cases)	...	...	317
Birth control „ („ 85 „ „ )	...	...	140
Death enquiries	...	...	5

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

I again wish to express my thanks, together with those of the Council, to the Voluntary Workers for the work they do at the Child Welfare Clinics.

They keep various registers of attendance, assist in weighing the children and generally make themselves responsible for the social side of the work. During the year they have organised a Baby Show and a Social Evening which, as in previous years, have been very successful.

We also owe our thanks to the donors of prizes for these two social events.

Appended hereto are the following :—

- (1). Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2). Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1936 :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
" " (other infectious diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
In addition to the above 85 disinfections of verminous houses were carried out.							

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS 1925.

Number of houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	32
Notices re defects served on Owners :—			
Preliminary—Served 32 : Complied with 39 : in hand, Dec. 31st			34
Statutory— " 2 : " " 2 :			None
Houses put in order during year including those dealt with under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930	...	...	39

HOUSING ACT, 1935. (Overcrowding Enumeration).

6,044 houses were visited in connection with the enumeration. Of these 101 were found to be void at the time of the visits and some were not used as dwellings.

Particulars regarding 5,997 families were obtained and duly reported as required by the Ministry of Health.

For record purposes and to enable the department to supply "Permitted Numbers" to owners as required by the Act, the measurements for 5,502 houses were obtained.

Up to the end of the year "Permitted Numbers" were supplied to owners with regard to 3,231 houses.

ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served, 311 : complied with 310 : in hand, Dec. 31	34
Statutory Notices " 13 : " " 13 : " "	None

COMPLAINTS.

537 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

DRAINAGE WORK.

Number of Drains tested by water— New Buildings	...	...	2511
" " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...
" " " " " under notice	...	...	35
" " " " " smoke—New Buildings	...	...	544
" " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...
" " " " " under notice	...	...	15
Total number of drains tested during year	...	...	3105
Number of drains cleared by the Department	...	...	215

Of the drains cleared by the department 75 were in connection with the Council houses and various other properties owned by the Corporation.

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	None
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	213

One registered slaughterhouse was demolished during the year.

Licences were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act to seven slaughtermen during the year.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1926

Registered Purveyors (Wholesale)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
" " (Retail)	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
(Including 11 dealers registered for the sale of sterilised milk in unopened bottles)							

The premises of 15 of the Registered Purveyors are situated outside the Borough.

Number of Cowsheds	...	...	6	...	Inspections	...	...	30
Number of Dairies	...	...	10	...	Inspections	...	...	62
Number of Milkshops	...	...	5	...	Inspections	...	...	12
Number of contraventions of the Order dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following licences have been granted by the Corporation:—

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Bottlers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

PASTEURISED MILK.

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

SAMPLES OF MILK.

During the year 13 samples of Graded Milk were taken, 3 of which did not comply with the prescribed conditions.

Six samples of milk were taken for the detection of tuberculosis and all were negative.

The department has co-operated with the Kent County Council in ensuring a proper milk supply to the local schools and in one case owing to samples not complying with the prescribed conditions a new source of supply was obtained.

The samples taken at the schools are taken by the County Council's own officers.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Meat and other Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	220
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	102
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	35
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	37

UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

The total quantity of unsound food surrendered and destroyed during the year was 2 tons, 4 cwt., 1 qr., 27 lb., details of which are as follows :—

Beef. —15 lb.	
Mutton. —4 lb.	
Pork. —1 qr., 13 lb. (including 4 pigs' heads affected with tuberculosis).	
Organs. —1 cwt., 21 lb. (including 7 beasts' livers, 3 pigs' plucks and 2 sheep's plucks).	
Fruit and Vegetables. —7 cwt., 2 qrs., 0 lb.	
Poultry. —1 ton, 13 cwt., 1 qr., 26 lb. (including 375 turkeys).	
Tinned Goods. —1 cwt., 3 qr., 4 lb.	

No seizures of food were made during the year. The food destroyed was surrendered on request after inspection.

The mutual Insurance Schemes of the Dartford, Sevenoaks, and Rochester Cattle Markets is, as in previous years, of great assistance in dealing with the home-killed meat supply of the district. Under these schemes, on the payment of a premium by both buyer and seller compensation is granted, on the certificate of the Sanitary Inspector, for diseased carcasses or portions of carcasses.

LODGING HOUSES ETC.

Number of Common Lodging Houses on Register	1
Number of Houses let in lodgings on Register (December 31st)	2
Inspections	14

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of inspections made	158
Notices served regarding contraventions (other than preliminary intimation)	8
Contraventions abated during the year	7

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register	10
Seven of these are subject to annual renewal of permission, under Section 44, Public Health Act, 1925.	
Number of Rag and Bone Dealers	2
„ „ Tanyards	1
„ „ Knacker's Yards	1
„ „ Inspections	52

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stableyards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected	98
Inspections re Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye-Laws	12
Inspections of Cinemas	6
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress	1,763
Visits re Applications for Council Houses	307

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year 42 inspections were made under the above. Advice was given with regard to dealing with these pests and in certain cases poison baits were laid down with good results. Where considered necessary the drains of the premises were smoke-tested and any defects dealt with.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

During the year 9 observations have been taken of the smoke emitted by the chimneys in the various works. One smoke nuisance was remedied during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	49
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed	20
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered	25
Damp walls remedied	34
House or part of house cleansed	50
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	46
Lighting or Ventilation improved	1
Broken sash cords replaced	19
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	36
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	15
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	27
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	6
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	7
New sinks provided	10
Yard paving repaired or renewed	16
Gulley fenders repaired or renewed	8
Houses formerly cesspool drained connected to public sewers	4
Nuisance from cesspool	1
Drains re-constructed (No. of houses)	1
Defective drains repaired	23
Drains cleared	228
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	6
New manholes provided	3
W.C.'s repaired	33
W.C.'s reconstructed	1
Defective ashbins renewed	161
Ashbins substituted for open ashpits	2
Overcrowding abated	18
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	5
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	15
Other nuisances abated	26

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Obedient Servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspection	Defects found	Defects remedied
Factories (including Factory laundries)	22	2	4
Workshops (including Workshop laundries)	44	1	2
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	13	3	2
Total	79	6	8

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prose- cutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	...	...	...	...
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of floors ... ..	...	1	...	...
Other nuisances	2	4	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	(Insufficient	3	1	...
	Unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	1	...
	Not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S.101).	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	6	8	...	...

HOME WORK.

No. of Lists received 6. Inspections 7.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.										Number.
Bakehouses*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Joiners and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Total										62

*There are also 9 Factory Bakehouses in the District.

